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Letter, n.d., from Eva Jesye to the Gilberts

Eva Jessye

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On the Eve of a New Year
In a new location...
Meeting new friends

But none as precious as the GILBERTS..

My dear friends:

Well, I have finally landed...whole, safely..in my right mind..though I came near to losing it the last few days before I pulled out of Pittsburgh Town.

My adventures are miraculous, I swear.....I have been like a bird...flying high, low..from place to place..during this long life....and finally..I repeat.....here I am looking from my fourth floor, front..picture window on a snowy scene..now and then a blue sky with Kansas-like cottony clouds..much traffic on the slippery streets...no way for an observant person to be bored. This place is interesting..for persons, mostly seniors..all classes, kinds..some younger handicapped..God only knows what histories are here. The oldest is 794..she is alert, cheerful and a joy to talk with. I am among the oldest and receive every courtesy and respect.

I have a multitude of friends....since 1971 when I first came here. In 1974 established the Eva Jessye Collection at the University..the dedication attracted scholars, students, teachers from all sections of the country...it has grown a lot and I brought a lot of material to add on this trip. Many persons here have luxuriously furnished apartments with valuable objects saved from their earlier years....My apartment is a kind of museum..pictures, paintings, music, books..etc.

I have squeezed my pocketbook and hired a woman to cook, clean..run errands...in order to leave me free to complete the several books ...I am running scared..realizing that I am on the edge of 91 (January 20th),,,,Mind and body ~~is~~ ^{are} carrying on a battle..former shouting.."Hurry, hurry" latter counselling.."Take it easy, take it easy." I am managing to stay calm and steady..

Whatever will be will be..and I am reminded of something I read ages ago.."There is a Providence that shapes our end; rough hew them though we may.."

I have spent a wonderful Xmas...perhaps the best ever..counting all things.

Concerts, Productions—Radio, Television

Friend and social agencies have filled kitchen shelves, frig...with every conceivable
fo od...enough to last for months ...I have had to give some away. Mail has brought checks..
big and little...and more expected.

Best of all ..¹ have peace of mind..no fears...aprehensions. .no waking at night to
wonder if the ~~backdoor~~ back door is locked..

Love to you both and my regards to your son..

Sincerely,

Yours truly

The silver emblem is precious -

Having it made so to wear

around my neck -

It will be a constant reminder -